

# THE VALUE OF CONNECTICUT DAIRY



The dairy industry significantly boosts Connecticut's economy, with **70+ dairy farms** and **19,000 dairy cows**, producing over **45 million gallons** of milk each year. Connecticut dairy farmers are committed to feeding their communities and prioritizing sustainability through innovative practices and partnerships.

## Connect with their Communities

Connecticut dairy farmers play a vital role in their communities, not only by providing fresh, local milk but also by giving back in countless ways. Many farmers support local schools through farm tours and educational programs, helping children learn where their food comes from. Farmers often donate milk and dairy products to food banks, ensuring families in need have access to nutritious options. They also lead 4-H clubs, participate in fairs, and welcome community members to their farms for events.



### Children's Camps

Farmers Jon and Erica Hermonot of Fairholme Farm host an on-farm camp each summer, allowing children to explore and learn more about agriculture. Children learn about dairy cows, sustainability, and the cooperative teamwork it takes to operate a modern-day farm.



### Farm Tours

Oakridge Dairy opens its doors to visitors throughout the year, offering guided tours to give visitors an inside look at their farm, including their rotary milking parlor. Farmer Seth Bahler is committed to giving back to his community, hosting open farm days, movie nights, and sponsoring their local Little League team.



### Farm Experiences

Guardians Farm is a veteran owned dairy farm. Farmers David Buck and Tamra French are committed to educating the public about dairy, hosting school field trips and visitors to their farm for creative events.

## CT DAIRY BY THE NUMBERS

**\$2.6B**  
economic impact

**12.5K**  
jobs provided

**97%**  
of farms are family-owned and operated



## A Commitment to Sustainability

Connecticut dairy farmers are strong stewards of the land, air, and water, and prioritize environmental sustainability using a range of innovative practices to transform byproducts and waste into valuable resources. The dairy industry is working to meet aggressive sustainability goals, including the Net Zero Initiative, which will reduce dairy's environmental impacts, including achieving greenhouse gas neutrality and improving water use. Connecticut dairy farmers are doing their part through conservation practices like cover cropping and no-till planting to help build healthy soils and keep our waterways clean.



### Anaerobic Digestion

Farmer Kies Orr Lavack at Fort Hill Farms uses an anaerobic digester, which captures methane from cow manure to break down organic material like food waste into electricity and soil products. The farm recycles 15,000 gallons of food waste per day along with cow manure to generate 3.5 million kW hours of electricity each year. The digester powers the farm and contributes electricity to neighbors.



### Renewable Energy Technologies

Connecticut dairy farms use renewable energy to reduce their environmental impact. Farmers at Mapleleaf Farm use solar panels, which generate 40 percent of the electricity needed to operate the farm.



### Innovative Manure Management

Freund's Farm has been at the forefront of innovative manure management for over two decades. They utilize composted cow manure from Canaan View Dairy to produce nursery pots, which are biodegradable planting pots for gardens. This sustainable product has earned national recognition, including features on TV shows like "Dirty Jobs" and "Shark Tank".

## Feeding Our Families: Dairy Health & Nutrition

Connecticut dairy farmers are committed to feeding their communities by producing fresh, nutritious milk that ends up in local grocery stores and school cafeterias. Milk travels from the farm to your fridge in 48 hours. Milk is a powerhouse food, delivering 13 essential vitamins and nutrients, including calcium, protein, vitamin D, vitamin B12, and potassium, which are vital for strong bones, muscle function, and energy. Dairy farmers take pride in knowing their milk directly nourishes families and helps students stay fueled for the day ahead. Their dedication to quality and safety means every glass of milk is carefully produced, tested, and delivered with care.



**Learn More:** Connecticut's dairy farmers continue to pioneer innovative practices that protect the environment, while caring for and feeding their communities. Visit [CTDairy.org](http://CTDairy.org) to learn more and meet Connecticut's farm families.

